4: Krämer--221
116, 511, 515

(1909) 1937

Woleaians
Woleai

The islanders get up early. The men wash at the beach, bathe, and rinse their mouths with salt water. The women wash on another part of the beach. The children may go with either their fathers of mothers (Lütke).

According to Kotzebue, Endeckungsreise...page 87, the inhabitants of Ulea excel the Rataks in prosperity and in many other matters. But these remarks of the conceited native, Kadu, do not apply in actuality.

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

177 tural changes brought by the West—changes in clothing, in housing,
164 in diet, in customs—have tended to increase the disease problem rather than to alleviate it. But that is a pet peeve of mine.

161 The population history of Ifaluk itself is not clear. Counts by anthropologists during the period of German control showed populations of 281 in 1903 and 208 in 1909, with an estimate of 300 for 1914. The drop between the first two counts may be a result of the typhoon of [167] 1907—not only direct mortality, but also emigration to other islands as a consequence of food shortage.

The older Ifalukians thought that more people had lived on the island formerly; and from their stories I got to thinking that the population might at some time have reached as much as 500. This was based on accounts of times when even coconuts were carefully shared and nothing was wasted. Abandoned household sites in the village areas might be evidence of some population decline and there were stories [164] of an epidemic, soon after the Japanese appeared, when as many as a dozen people died in a day. This, clearly, was smallpox; and the Japanese started vaccination, which has been maintained by the American authorities.

161 The island, in 1953, was not overpopulated. The land surface of the
131 atoll was about a half a square mile, so the population of 260 people would represent a density of about 520 persons per square mile: a rather dense population, but we must remember that the people of Ifaluk had also the resources of their lagoon and of the surrounding seas. Ifaluk seemed to me to represent an economy of abundance, and [511] this probably in part explains the idyllic living conditions that prevailed. With more people, with the same resources and the same cultural equipment, life might have been more difficult and unpleasant.

141 The Ifalukians certainly seemed not only happy, but healthy. It is
561 difficult to make exact comparisons between the Ifalukians and other people because of our uncertainty about precise ages, so that one is likely to be averaging fifteen-year-olds with thirty-year-olds. In general, however, the men seemed to be somewhat smaller and lighter than the American average. The tallest man of the island, Sepemal, was a half inch under six feet. The heaviest (Wolpaitig, the number